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determining a portion of total call charges associated with the call that is attributable to at least one entity other than the subscriber based on the alternate services provided. ✓

14. (Amended) A method of time slicing a telecommunications call, comprising:

connecting a caller to a called party; then:

determining that one of the caller and the called party is not available for communication with the other of the caller and the called party;

connecting the other of the caller and the called party to a device that provides alternate services while the caller or called party is not available;

terminating the alternate services and resuming communication between the caller and the called party when both the caller and the called party are available for communication;

and

determining a portion of total call charges that are attributable to at least one of the caller, the called party and another entity based on the alternate services provided. ✓

15. (Amended) A telecommunications system having a time slicing capability, comprising:

connecting means for connecting a caller to a called party;

availability determining means for determining that one of the caller and the called party after being connected is not available for communication with the other of the caller and the called party;

alternate services means for providing alternate services to the caller when the caller or called party is not available;

terminating means for terminating the alternate services and resuming communication between the caller and the called party when both the caller and the called party are available for communication; and

charge determining means for determining a portion of total call charges that are attributable to at least one of the caller, the called party and another entity based on the alternate services provided.

16. (Amended) A telecommunications system having a time slicing capability, comprising:

an originating switch that receives a signal from a caller indicating a desire to be connected with a called party;

a controller that provides information regarding how the signal from the caller should be handled;

a destination switch that connects to the called party based on information from the controller;

a switching network that interconnects the originating switch with the destination switch;

a sensing device that detects that one of the caller and the called party after being connected is not available for communication; and

an alternate services device that provides alternate services to the other of the caller and the called party while the caller or called party is unavailable;

wherein portions of the call during which alternate services are provided are charged to entities based on the alternate services provided.